

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of North Carolina stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills; and
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; and
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults; and
- Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 16, 2008, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, North Carolina is home to approximately 1.5 million youth aged 5 to 17; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, more than 70 percent live in homes where both parents work or where there is a single parent who works; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, North Carolina has the sixth fastest growing population of youth aged 5 to 17 in the nation; and

WHEREAS, according to the Afterschool Alliance, 93 percent of North Carolina parents are extremely or somewhat satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends; and

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 16, 2008, as "**LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY**," and commit our state to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael F. Easley".
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this _____ day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America two hundred and thirty-third.